

# The Hawthorne Holler

The Newsletter of the Hawthorne Hills Community Council

Vol. 2, No. 1

Winter 2006

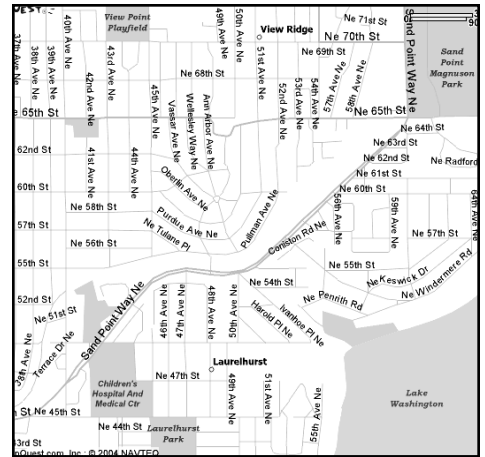
## The Way We Were Part 1: An Occasional History of Hawthorne Hills



by Gail Chiarello

*Left: Irvine Miller Marr, Hawthorne Hills Community Council President 1950-1951. Mr. Marr at his 1926 graduation from Roosevelt High School. (Photo courtesy of the Marr Family.)*

*Right: Hawthorne Hills lies east of 40th Ave. NE, south of NE 65th St., and northwest of Sand Point Way. There are 2000 households and businesses in the Hawthorne Hills community.*



About 15,000 years ago the Vashon Glacier filled the entire area between the Olympic Mountains and the Cascades and began its icy retreat. An artifact of that glacier still exists--the Wedgwood Rock at NE 72nd St. & 20th Ave. NE. This giant boulder was dropped as the glacier melted.

Somewhat more recently, in 1946, **Irvine Miller Marr** moved to Hawthorne Hills.

Between these two dates--one in geological time, the other in human time--the ridge we call "Hawthorne Hills" evolved. Initially Southern Coastal Salish Indians made their home here, with settlements at Union Bay, Webster Point, and Sand Point. Lake Washington was "It-how-chug" or Big Lake, in their Lushootseed language. Trails crisscrossed the ridges; many headed over to the Wedgwood Rock at 28th Ave. NE & NE 72nd St., which had spiritual significance for the Indians (and, in the 1960s, for the hippies). By 1854-1855 the Indians had ceded most of their property rights. A 1857 Executive Order created the "Muckleshoot" Indians--an amalgam of several different tribes who were placed on a reservation east of Seattle.

In 1885 **Thomas Burke** and **Daniel Gilman** financed the Seattle, Lake Shore & Eastern Railroad with New York money. It ran from First & Columbia downtown, stopping in Ballard, the "Town of Yesler," Pontiac Brick Works at the north end of Sand Point, and LaVilla Station at NE 100th St. It traveled up the lake, ultimately as far as Arlington. The railroad changed names several times. It made its last run in 1963 and is now the Burke-Gilman Trail.

Yesler Creek is still visible at 39th Ave. NE and NE 60th St. It flows south into Union Bay, the site of "Town of Yesler" and the second of Henry Yesler's lumber mills. The area is now Union Bay Place near U-Village. Geographically, Yesler Creek is our western boundary.

In July 1928, **E. S. Simmons** ("of Spokane and Seattle") and **Hawthorne K. Dent** submitted a plat for Hawthorne Hills to the King County Auditor. In 1925 Simmons had been President of the City Planning Commission. Simmons was a major developer who hired the Olmsted Brothers to plan The Uplands and The Highlands. Although the contoured streets of Hawthorne Hills resemble Olmsted's contoured Ravenna Boulevard (contrast with Seattle's typical right-angled grids), so far there is no firm evidence the Olmsted's planned Hawthorne Hills. Dent, who held the mortgage, is the founder of Safeco Insurance.

Around this time **Ole Rasmussen Blindheim**, owner of the LaVilla Dairy in Lake City, grazed his herd of cows at 40th Ave. NE & NE 55th St., near the current Metropolitan Market. This area is now the Burke-Gilman Place Playfield. When trains ran over four of his cows, Mr. Blindheim moved his herd back to Lake City in disgust. He'd had enough--neither the railroad nor the county would reimburse him.

There were seven homes in the original development--large brick Tudor residences reminiscent of England. One of the original homes still stands on the SW corner of NE 60th Street & Princeton Way. Initially development was slow, but by the end of the Second World War, Hawthorne Hills was covered with its characteristic Cape Cods, smaller brick Tudors, and California-style brick ranch homes.

Irvine Miller Marr was the President of the Hawthorne Hills Community Club from 1950-1951. He was active with the Civic Unity Committee, Chairman of the Board of Sand Point Methodist Church, and active with the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce. He and his wife, Frances Appleton Marr, had six children, two sons and four daughters.

*(Continued on page 2)*

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### The Hawthorne Holler

Newsletter of

the Hawthorne Hills Community

Editor: **Gail Chiarello**

Tel: 206-523-0715

E-mail: GailChiarello@comcast.net

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## From the President's Desk



**HHCC President  
Bonnie Miller**

Telephone 206-524-8713  
E-mail Bmiller@serv.net

This may well be written as a missive from my mother's lap. The most basic lessons of civility were taught to me by my mother. Most of us may reflect that we learned how to be good neighbors and good friends by heeding these homilies. How many times did my mother say to me, "How would you like it if she did that to you?" Recognize the golden rule?

I stopped dropping my used napkins on the ground on the day she said, "If everyone dropped a napkin, we would have napkins from here to Mason City." I find myself incapable of littering no matter where I am! It has even

reached the point where I am likely to return from a walk in the neighborhood with not just my dogs' droppings in a plastic bag, but with a couple of pieces of trash! I know—yuk!—but I picked it up and didn't leave it for an unlucky neighbor. Another life-long lesson was to consider the effect of any actions that I take on my fellow travelers on this planet. Wow. That covers just about anything! If you have any lessons on life that have worked well for you, send a note or an email to the editor of the Hawthorne Holler.

—Bonnie Miller

## The Way We Were ...

(cont. from page 1):

Mr. Marr got his start at the Piggly-Wiggly grocery stores in Seattle. He reported showing up for work on Jan. 8, 1928 and being handed a mop and a pail of soapy water to mop down the store. He worried, "What will my friends think!" But he took the pricebook home with him every evening and studied it. He moved up quickly. Within seven years he was the manager of the Safeway store at the corner of NE 65th & 32nd Ave. NE, across from the current Sunflour Café. In 1935 a friend, **George Scarvie**, recruited him into Aetna Insurance where he worked the rest of his career. He retired in 1967.

Mr. Marr is 99 years old today and still an active resident and neighbor in Hawthorne Hills.

There are many other tales to be told of our neighborhood. Look for them in future issues.

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Above: University Circle's "Before Picture" October 2005.

## University Circle Park: Neighbors Work Together!!!

The Seattle Parks Department and the Hawthorne Hills community are renovating University Circle Park. Neighbors have formed "The Friends of University Circle." Parks agrees University Circle has been in decline for several years and needs attention to become to a healthy and attractive park. Here are some of the ideas:

- Expand the shrub bed to make the bed to turf area equal on all sides, expanding by approximately 5 feet.
- Remove the 3 "trails" that bisect the Park; remove landscape fabric, gravel, and contaminated soil. Replace soil and mulch the bed with recycled wood chips.
- Remove all plants except healthy rhododendrons, azaleas, and the arbutus or strawberry shrub.
- Replant with rhododendrons and azaleas with a pink/purple color scheme.
- Include 3 trees of varying height to add interest and canopy to our neighborhood.

- Allow areas between or in front of plants to be planted with spring bulbs.
- Apply for a Dept. of Neighborhoods Small and Simple Grant to pay for new plants, two park benches, and a sign indicating University Circle is a park and a part of Hawthorne Hills.

Neighbors **Ryan and Cindy Rockwell** with son **Nicholas**, **Christina Krashan**, **Ethan Gustav**, **Bonnie Miller**, **Joan Oates**, and **Andrea Stanford Gates** are working with **Peggy Pullen**, Parks Crew Chief, and **Jim Frost**, Parks Gardener. Your comments and participation are greatly appreciated. E-mail Ryan Rockwell at [ryanrockwell@cbbba.com](mailto:ryanrockwell@cbbba.com) (963-2022) or Bonnie Miller at [bmiller@serv.net](mailto:bmiller@serv.net) (524-8713). You may also contact the Parks Crew Chief at 684-4955 with questions.

**Update Fire Station No. 38 Relocation** On Jan. 17 Seattle City Council voted to acquire the Strickland property at 40th Ave. NE & NE 55th St. to relocate and rebuild Fire Station No. 38. The City is \$67 million short of funds needed to relocate and rebuild all its fire stations, but Deputy Mayor Tim Ceis states the Nickels administration will NOT ask the voters for increased taxes. Stay tuned.

### CRIME STATISTICS CENSUS TRACT 42\* January through November 2005\*\*

	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Aggr. Assault	Res'l Burglary	Non-Res. Burglary	Theft	Auto Theft	Arson	TOTAL
January-March 2005	0	1	0	0	9	0	27	24	1	62
April-August 2005	0	0	1	3	19	6	82	38	0	149
Sept.-Nov. 2005	0	0	1	1	6	7	37	20	0	74
Census Tract 42 Total	0	1	2	4	34	13	146	82	3	285
City-Wide TOTAL	25	132	1,471	2,143	4,295	1,832	25,199	8,872	200	44,169
% of City Total	—	0.8%	0.1%	0.2%	0.8%	0.7%	0.2%	0.9%	1.5%	0.6%

\*Census Tract 42 includes 10 blocks—30th Ave. NE to 40th Ave. NE.—which lie west of Hawthorne Hills. Officer Diane Horswill estimates two-thirds of the crimes reported in Census Tract 42 occur in this 10-block area. Business districts and arterials attract more crime than low-traffic residential streets. \*\*Most recent Seattle Police Department crime statistics available as of 02/01/2006.



## The Ronald McDonald House—

In Case You've Always Wondered ...

*Driving north on 40th Ave. NE from Sand Point Way, one passes The Ronald McDonald House on the right, just before crossing the Burke-Gilman Trail. Ever wondered what The Ronald McDonald House was all about? The Holler spoke to **Joyce Halldorson**, their public relations officer. Joyce writes:*

Built in 1983, Seattle's Ronald McDonald House provides a "home-away-from-home" for families of children with cancer and other serious illnesses being treated at Children's Hospital. Many families cannot afford housing in this area. The House can accommodate 80 families a night; last year over 1,200 families stayed there. "The House" is actually three separate buildings. In two buildings, families have their own private rooms, sharing communal living areas, kitchens, dining areas, laundry, computer rooms, a home theater, and library. The third building houses the bone marrow transplant apartments. Each unit is self-sufficient with a kitchen, bathroom, living area, washer, and dryer. Here families find an oasis from the tensions of the hospital and gain support from others who are going through a similar experience. Families come from Washington, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho.

It takes over 250 volunteers a month to keep the House running smoothly. Volunteers welcome families at the front desk, garden, clean, bake, and prepare dinners for the families twice a week. "It's wonderful to have volunteers from the neighborhood. I've found they like investing in their own community," said Judy Adams, volunteer coordinator.

There are 258 Ronald McDonald Houses throughout the world. The first was formed in Philadelphia in 1974. There are houses in Spokane, Portland, and Vancouver BC. The Seattle House is the second largest in the world; only New York's is larger. McDonald Corporation provides 15-20% of the operating budgets of the Ronald McDonald Houses. The House is owned and operated by Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) of Western Washington, a private, non-profit organization. It depends on charitable donations and volunteer support from individuals and companies for its continued existence.

*For information or to volunteer, call (206) 838-0600 or visit [www.rmhcseattle.org](http://www.rmhcseattle.org).*



*Left: Ronald McDonald House resident **Caitlin** with **Katharine Fitzgerald**, a staffer at Children's Hospital.*



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## What's Happening in the Hills & Holler

### Gretchen's Place—Home of the 5AM Cup of Coffee.

Gretchen's Place serves its lovely coffees starting at 5AM every day! Before heading off for that dawn bird walk with the Audubonites, stop in at Gretchen's for a delicious steaming latte!

### Katterman's Sand Point Pharmacy.

Whether you're looking for sunshine south of the border or headed for snowy treks in Nepal—you can WALK IN to Katterman's for all your travel immunizations. No appointment needed. Open M-F 9AM-7PM, Sat 10AM-6PM, Sun noon-5PM.

### HomeStreet Bank on NE 35th—A Bank with Heart.

Local branch hours Mon-Thurs 9AM-5PM and Fri 9AM-6PM.

### Chuckanut Drive Blues Band:

Local UW biologist and musician **Chris Hess** lives right here in Hawthorne Hills. His dynamite group, consisting of Chris Hess, Steve Leslie, Garth Highsmith, Loren Huggins and Kubby C, can be heard at The Tractor Tavern Feb. 16th, in Ballard; and at The High Dive in Fremont on Mar. 31st. Start at 9:30PM.

**Gail Chiarello**, HHCC Trustee, was one of 14 semi-finalists out of 101 applicants for the Seattle City Council seat vacated by Laurelhurst resident **Jim Compton**. Gail says, "I have renewed respect for our elected officials—I only had to run for 2-1/2 weeks! It was intense!" **Sally Clark** has been appointed to Seat no. 9.

### Northeast Public Library Neighborhood History Dis-

play Feb. 2-28. Laurelhurst, Wedgwood, View Ridge, Sand Point, Ravenna, Meadowbrook. Library hours: Mon-Tues 1-8PM; Wed 10AM-8PM; Th, Fri, Sat 10AM-6PM; Sun 1-5PM.

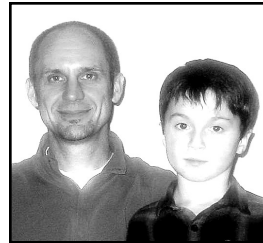
**Spring Poetry Contest** at NE Public Library. Poems due April 30, 2006. Grand prize—**The Golden Wedgie Award**.

### Looking Ahead to Summer!!!

**WOODLAWN OPTICAL** celebrates its 36th Anniversary Sale this coming June 2006. All frames and lenses will be 20% off the entire month of June.

### WEBMASTER(s) Found!!!

**Kent Isgrig** has volunteered to create the HHCC homepage. Below: Kent with **Austen Isgrig**, age 6. All the really hot ideas are Austen's.



Visit [www.HHCC.scn.org](http://www.HHCC.scn.org)

### HAWTHORNE HOLLER UNCLASSIFIEDS

**Wanted:** Double jogging stroller for Marathon Mom. Second grandbaby due soon. 524-8713 or [Bmiller@serv.net](mailto:Bmiller@serv.net).

**Wanted:** Ramp so that my aging poodle can get into my minivan more easily. 524-8713 or [Bmiller@serv.net](mailto:Bmiller@serv.net)

UNCLASSIFIEDS ARE FREE TO MEMBERS.



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**Action Alert—NATIONAL PARKS UNDER ATTACK AGAIN.** The National Park Service is proposing changes to its Management Policies which will open national parks for extensive motorized recreation & mining and remove existing conservation protections. Write Congress or visit National Parks Conservation Association's website at:

[www.npca.org/stoptherewrite](http://www.npca.org/stoptherewrite).

Comment by Feb. 18th to make a difference.

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**BURDZ! BURDZ! BURDZ!****Continuing Conversations with Hawthorne Hills' Bird Women Jan Bragg and Sara O'Brien  
"The Bird with the Bicycle Helmet—the White-Crowned Sparrow!"**

Sara O'Brien writes:

North America's white-crowned sparrow is distinguished by black and white bands on its head. The three white blazes resemble a white bicycle helmet. The sparrow's back and wings are rusty brown and its flight feathers contain a scalloped pattern of black and white tips. The bird's chest and underbelly are drab beige-grey. Its feet are pink and its beak yellow with a blackened tip.

Two of the western subspecies of the white-crowned sparrow can be seen in Seattle. The Gambel's white-crowned sparrow passes through the city during its spring and fall migrations. It winters in Baja Mexico and California but breeds as far north as the Arctic Circle in Alaska. The other "Seattle-seen" subspecies is the Puget Sound white-crowned sparrow, a short distance migrant which winters in Oregon and breeds in Puget Sound. You'll often hear these birds singing their characteristic "Youu-CAAN'T-come-and-come-and-catch-mee" song along the Burke-Gilman Trail or at Magnuson Park. All the subspecies of white-crowned sparrows look similar, only differing in a few yellow patches on the shoulders, but a

trained ear can distinguish variations in their song.

The white-crowned sparrow is predominantly a seed eater, but often consumes young buds and green shoots. During the nestling phase, parents feed the chicks insects. You'll find the brown-headed juveniles (they don't develop their characteristic "Bicycle Helmet" white blazes until the next year's breeding season) feasting on blackber-



*The White-crowned Sparrow with its telltale white bike helmet...*

ries in Seattle's parks and trails. It would be rare to find a white-crowned sparrow perched on your feeder. Instead draw your eyes downward. You may find them scratching through the chaff beneath your feeder, often keeping company with their close relatives, the junco and golden-crowned sparrow.

The white-crowned sparrow has been a model for research on how birds survive and breed in harsh polar environments. How do these birds time egg-laying and chick-rearing in the brief Arctic summer and know when to begin nesting? The migrating birds have no idea what the North Slope conditions will be like before they get there! How do these birds

handle the stress of the unpredictable Arctic weather patterns? When you have your nest built and eggs laid, do you stick it out in an Arctic blizzard? Or do you sacrifice precious allotted breeding time to head south and try again once the weather is better?

Ultimately this research will help us learn how global warming, which is increasing temperatures in our polar regions at a much faster rate than other areas, will affect white-crowned sparrows and other species similar to them.

Jan Bragg adds, "We have white-crowned sparrows nesting in Hawthorne Hills. A pair nested in our yard a few years ago. Last year they seemed to be nesting just north of NE 65th St, along 49th NE. Their nest is on the ground or close to it, but they hide it well. We never found the nest in our yard. The male will sing from a tree or wire or chimney-top high above the nest. Watch for them in your yard! And remember to keep cats indoors, especially during nesting season (March-July)!"

*NOTE: Sara O'Brien is getting her PhD at the University of Washington with a dissertation on the white-crowned sparrow. She joins ongoing columnist Audubon Master Birder Jan Bragg as a Hawthorne Hills' Bird Woman.*

**Neighborhood Bird Walks Near You:** Sat. Feb. 11th at 9AM. Montlake Fill/Union Bay Natural Area led by **Fran Wood**.

Meet at Center for Urban Horticulture; no sign-up needed. Sat. Mar. 4th at 9AM. Magnuson Park led by **Jan Bragg**. Meet at Environmental Education Center. Sign up with Seattle Audubon at 206-523-4483. Family memberships \$30/year; join online at [www.seattleaudubon.org](http://www.seattleaudubon.org) or call 206-523-4483 Mon-Sat. 10AM-5PM.



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**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Hawthorne Hills Community Council**  
**Wednesday, March 15th, 2006**  
**7:30-9:00PM**  
**Sand Point Community Church**  
**4710 NE 70th Street**

**JOANN JORDAN, SEATTLE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**  
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